

## INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS (IHR) TOOLS FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION

# SIMULATION EXERCISE

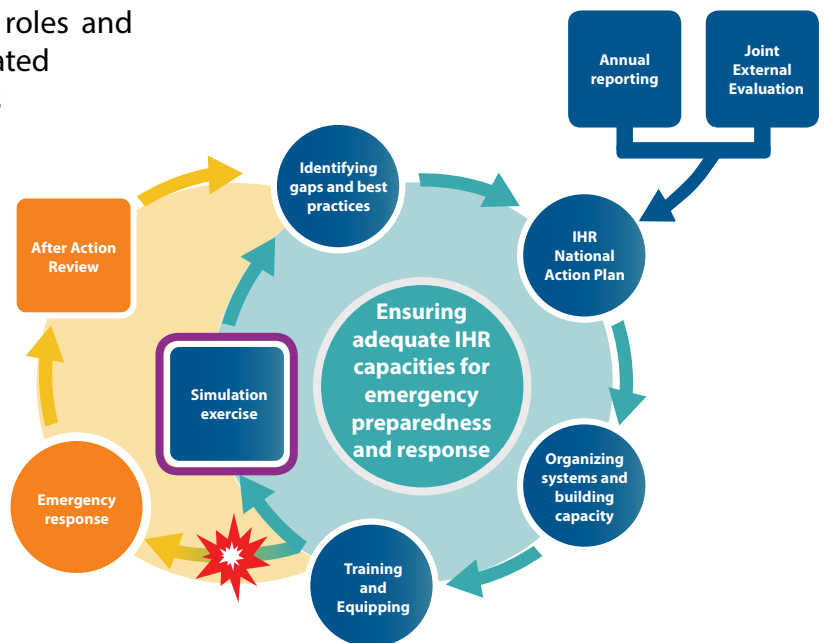
Recommended yearly

## WHAT

A simulation exercise (SimEx) is one of the four tools to monitor and evaluate countries' IHR capacities. **The SimEx aims to develop and/or monitor and evaluate existing IHR capacities through the simulation of a response to an evolving emergency.**

A SimEx enables people to practise their roles and functions and to gain experience in a simulated emergency setting. This helps countries to identify and address issues before an actual emergency occurs.

WHO recommends that countries start with basic exercises that test specific aspects of preparedness and response, and follow these with progressively more complex exercises that require additional preparation, time and resources.



## WHY

**A SimEx is an opportunity to test systems in a safe environment. It can reveal whether or not something works as planned before lives are on the line, and allows countries to improve plans and systems.**

SimExs are an effective tool to ensure preparedness for potential emergencies. They should be conducted systematically and on a routine basis, rather than as one-time events. Each should build on the previous one to ensure that lessons learned are acted upon.



# HOW

WHO recommends conducting a range of SimExs, such as those described below, according to the intended purpose.

- **Tabletop exercise (TTX):** A TTX simulates an emergency situation in an informal, stress-free environment, strengthening readiness through facilitated group discussions. It involves a simulated scenario with a series of injects – scripted pieces of information added to direct the flow of the exercise – that prompt participants to examine the functionality of existing plans, policies and procedures.
- **Drill (DR):** A DR is a coordinated, supervised exercise normally used to test and perfect a specific operation, function, procedure or skill through repetition.
- **Functional exercise (FX):** An FX is a fully simulated interactive exercise that tests the capability of one or more organizations to respond to an event. It tests coordination and communication among different actors involved in the response in a time-pressured, realistic manner. FXs do not involve field presence.
- **Field/full-scale exercise (FSX):** An FSX simulates a real event as closely as possible to evaluate the operational capability of emergency management systems in a highly stressful environment that simulates actual response conditions. It includes the mobilization and movement of emergency personnel, equipment and resources.

## WHO support

The WHO Simulation Exercise Manual, available online, enables countries to initiate, plan and execute exercises. Upon requests from countries, WHO provides technical support to help them develop, conduct, and evaluate SimExs.

## Contact us

The WHO Regional Office for Europe has a dedicated team to support and guide countries in performing IHR monitoring and evaluation.

For further information, please contact the Core Capacity Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit at

✉ [eurocme@who.int](mailto:eurocme@who.int)

and

visit the Regional Office's IHR website:

 [www.euro.who.int/ihr](http://www.euro.who.int/ihr)